The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
February 16, 2001

Field Museum's Pryer Has Nature Covered

Cnemidaria mutica, photo by W. Burger

Not only did **Kathleen Pryer** and her co-authors get their paper published in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, it was made the cover-story for the February 1st issue!

This paper, using both morphological and molecular evidence, claims that ferns and horsetails are a monophyletic lineage that is the closest living sister-group to seed plants (seed plants include cycads, conifers, flowering plants, and a few others).

What is significant about this research is that it strongly suggests ferns and horsetails were not intermediate or transitional stages leading up to the higher complexity of seed plants, but that they diverged as an independent group and have had a long evolutionary history separate from seed plants. This major rearrangement to the plant tree of life is very different from the way most people have viewed plant evolution, and makes this publication quite significant.

In addition, there's a further Field Museum connection in this paper and issue of Nature; the thumbnail plant sketches in Figure 1 were done by Zorica Dabich and the cover photo of a tree fern leaf was taken by Bill Burger during a collecting trip in Costa Rica.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

FIELD NOTES

Week of February 19, 2001

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

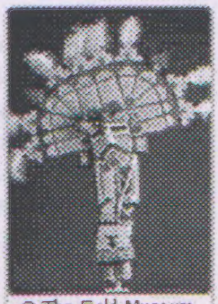
Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., FP&O Conference Room

Public/Campus Events

Kremlin Gold
- Exhibit continues

Between Cultures
- Exhibit Continues

Kachinas
- Exhibit continues



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The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (schmeltz@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, February 21, at noon

McCarter Appointed to Advisory Committee to Guide Plans for Calumet Environmental Center

At a news conference last Friday, Mayor Daley and Governor Ryan announced the formation of the Calumet Sustainable Growth Advisory Committee, which will work with Chicago's Environmental Fund to create a new environmental center in the Lake Calumet area. The center is a major component of the environmental and industrial projects the Mayor and the Governor Ryan announced for the area last spring.

Ford Motor Company announced at the news conference, held on the far southeast side, that it was giving $6 million to help finance the interactive environmental center, which will showcase the region's natural and industrial heritage and outdoor wildlife viewing areas. The advisory committee, which also includes Field Museum Trustee Bill Kurtis, Robert Darnall, former CEO of Inland Steel, and Sheli Rosenberg of Equity Group Investments, LLC., will advise the city and state on a variety of projects and sustainable development goals previously identified by the Governor and the Mayor for the Calumet region. McCarter spoke at the news conference, and the text of his speech appears below.

February 9, 2001

Governor Ryan, Mayor Daley, Alderman Pope and President Nasser, on behalf of Shellie Rosenberg, Bill Kurtis, and Bob Darnall we are pleased to serve as Co-Chairs of the Lake Calumet Sustainable Growth Advisory Committee.

Governor Ryan and Mayor Daley, thank you for the vision you have jointly brought to Lake Calumet. Jack Nasser, thank you to the Ford Motor Company for your recognition of the importance of this urban area and for your support.

The Lake Calumet region harbors globally critical remnants of highly endangered ecosystems such as prairie wetlands, oak savannas and oak woodlands. These rare biological treasures survive amidst heavy industry and degraded waters and lands and are challenged by fragmentation of natural communities, disruption of hydrological cycles, accumulation of toxic chemicals and invasion of aggressive species.

Yet, the biological riches and social potential of Lake Calumet have captured the imagination of hundreds of individuals, of research and cultural institutions like Openlands, Nature Conservancy, Wetlands Initiatives and Chicago Wilderness, of conservation organizations and government agencies like U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps, Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Lake Calumet offers a unique opportunity in an urban area to demonstrate how environmental, social and economic efforts can restore to life a complex of natural communities that will be among the world's finest, while at the same time revitalizing the local economy and quality of life.

Through this collaborative effort, we envision thriving plant communities, abundant migrant and breeding birds, living rivers and healthy lakes replete with aquatic life, supported through ongoing ecologically sensitive economic development and environmental education for the citizens of Chicago, Illinois and the world.

We as co-chairs of the Advisory Committee are delighted to accept the challenge and look forward to our involvement with the community, corporations like Ford, the State and the City.

Thank you.

John W. McCarter, Jr.

President's Office Area Completed

We would like to extend our APPRECIATION, THANKS AND KUDOS to **Frank**, **Greg**, **Kirk**, **Phil**, **Richard** and **Steve** and their work crews for all of their hard work, drive and determination in completing the job in such a short time frame. The entire staff is absolutely delighted with the overall area and especially their individual work areas. It is an absolute work of art!

And now that the work is complete and most departments have microwaves and refrigerators, it has been decided that the kitchen will no longer be available to the entire ground floor staff. This also applies to the conference room. These areas will only be accessible to the staff of the President's office, External Affairs, Finance and Administration and General Counsel. This decision was made after much deliberation and many discussions and we apologize for any inconvenience this might cause you.

If you have any questions on the above, they should be directed to **Helen Green** at ext. 7212, **Kristina Thiel** at ext. 7221 or **Julie Baker** at ext. 7240.

The President's Office

School Holiday Program—President's Day- February 19, 2001

This is a reminder to all Museum staff that President's Day, Monday, February 19, will be the first school holiday program here at the Field Museum. Several children of Museum staff will be exploring the building throughout the day, so be sure to welcome them! Museum staff participating in the school holiday program can bring the children to Classroom C between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The children can be picked up at the same location by 5:30pm at the end of the day on Monday. Please call **Maria Glover-Stevens** at ext. 7789 or **Heather Friend** at ext. 7275 if you have any questions concerning the school holiday program.

Submitted by **Kate Pettenati**

Information Services Online

Information Services has a new web site on the Field Museum Intranet. You can access the site directly from the Intranet home page at http://intranet1.

The site provides access to the services offered by each of the constituent departments: Computer Services;Telecommunications; Web Publishing; Photography; The Library; Office of the Vice President and CIO; and, provides tools and contact information.

The site will evolve over time to include direct access to all available services. We would value your feedback on the site during this process, so we can ensure that it meets the needs of the Museum. Contacts for feedback for the departments are listed on the base of each page.

Full address: http://intranet1/departments/info_services/

Submitted by **Peter Lang**

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

* On Monday, February 19, the Museum Campus trolleys will be in operation from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

* REMINDER: All requests for Special Event Trolley Charters must be accompanied by a P.O. number to receive the Museum Campus event rate and to be placed on the charter schedule.

* All event coordinators with events coinciding with all upcoming XFL games should distribute the Green Access cards to event clients for their guests' use. Green Access cards can be obtained by calling Joanne Kelleher at Soldier Field (phone 312-747-1279).

Submitted by **Christina Breslow**

Closer Encounters

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change, the Anthropology department, and Education are working together to develop a new program at the Museum—*Museum Encounters and Conversations: A Meeting Place for Peoples of the 21st Century*. Institutional Advancement is providing support. The main goal of this program is to bring people from all over the world here to the Museum, specifically the Maori House, to interact with local Chicago groups and Museum visitors through music, performance, storytelling, etc., and use the Maori House as it was intended to be used. It's a great way to show off our collections and to cross cultural barriers to learn to understand one another.

We are starting this program as a pilot project in Spring 2002, hopefully with the people from the islands of Vanuatu. Last week, with a generous grant from the Illinois Arts Council, we had the pleasure of hosting a Museum visit and storytelling demonstration with Mr. Takaronga Kuautonga, curator of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu (north of New Zealand) and Professor Janet Dixon Keller of the Anthropology department at the University of Illinois, Urbana. During the two-day visit, Mr. Kuautonga and Prof. Dixon Keller studied the Pacific collections, and helped plan the Pilot Program. The storytelling performance took place in Rice Hall at 10:30 on Friday, February 9, in front of 70 students from schools associated with the Field Ambassadors Program.

Thank you to **Carolyn Johnson**, Anthropology Research Associate, **Deborah Bakken**, Sponsored Programs, **Paul Baker**, **Janet Young**, **Tori Geisel**, **Jordan Lungstrom** and **Encarnacion Teruel** and all of the rest of the team involved in this project for making this visit possible.

Submitted by **Jennifer Acevedo** and **Alaka Wali**

It's your last chance!
Get your LOU t-shirts!
Don't be the only person in your division without one!

Order before February 21
Questions: Contact
Rachel Collin
rcollin@fmnh.org

Baker's Corner

Paul Baker

I was perusing the events of the day, yesterday, when I read "February 15, 1758 - mustard, that tangy, yellow stuff made for hot dogs and hamburgers, was advertised for the first time in America." And the person responsible for bringing mustard to the US of A in the first place? That Francophile and turkey lover, Benjamin Franklin.

There are two major kinds of mustard seed: yellow (or *white* in the science books) and brown (or *black*). But, all of it is processed in about the same way. The seeds are crushed, the hulls and bran either removed or retained and then perhaps some more grinding and smashing. Liquids (water, wine, vinegar, beer) are added to bring out the flavors and "heat" (due mostly to isothiocyanates). Then, the result is mixed, maybe simmered, cooled and sometimes aged.

Mustards appeared as early as 42 AD but not used widely as a food in either Greece or Rome. The Romans took the seeds to Gaul where, by the 9th century, French monks were "cutting the mustard" in a big way. By the 13th century, Parisian sauce-hawkers were peddling the stuff in the cuisine capitol.

Its hard to think that the making of mustard might have been a thing to regulate, but it was. Adulteration of the product and contamination of processing vessels resulted in 17th century laws governing equipment cleanliness and its "official" production.

Mustard's popularity declined in the 18th century, due mainly to newly discovered spices from the Americas and the Far East. Luckily, in 1856, Burgundian Jean Naigeon substituted verjuice (an acidic, sour liquid made from unripe fruit, primarily grapes) for the usual vinegar. The result was a smooth, suave condiment we call Dijon, in honor of the city where it originated.

One look around a gourmet food shop will reveal many mustards, many of which may be new to you. I, myself, have nearly two dozen types, each one a little different. To be truly awed by the subject matter, I invite you all to visit the Mt. Horeb Mustard Museum, originated and curated by Barry Levenson.

He contributes this quiz, which, if answered correctly, will win the mustard-lover in you a fantastic prize. E-me or drop your answers off in Development.

1. What spice gives French's Yellow Mustard its bright yellow color?
2. In what play by Shakespeare do we hear: "What say you to a piece of beef and mustard?"
3. What British mystery writer once wrote ad copy for Colman's Mustard?
4. Which is smaller: the brown mustard seed or the yellow mustard seed?
5. Of what botanical family is mustard a member?
6. What is the origin of the brand name "Grey Poupon?"
7. What French monarch traveled with his mustard pot?
8. What pope created for his nephew the position of "mustard maker to the pope?"
9. What ancient warrior sent a bag of mustard seeds to his rival in order to symbolize the size and strength of his army?
10. Name the only Beatle's song to have the word "mustard" in its title? (Bonus: on what album is it found?)

Good luck!

Looking for Peanuts

PLEASE HELP !!! The Museum Store is looking for "clean", garbage-free styrofoam peanuts for packing. If your department throw them away, please call **Colleen Walsh** at ext. 7689 or **Amy Martinez** at ext. 7676. We would love to help recycle these! THANKS!

Submitted by **Renee Visteen**

The Field Museum

Nominate Someone Today!!

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This award will be given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding performance or achievement. The *Award of Excellence* has been implemented to recognize individuals who have gone "above and beyond the call of duty," have demonstrated outstanding contribution to the mission of the Museum, or have added significant value to the visitor experience. A group of colleagues representing diverse areas of the Museum will review each nomination and determine which nominees will receive the award. The award will be presented during the Museum's Annual Recognition Ceremony.

Recipient Eligibility

The following is the criteria that will be used to determine if a staff member is eligible to receive an award:

- recipients must have been employed with the Museum for a minimum of one year by September 1st in the year for which the award is given
- recipients must be employed by the Museum on the day the award is to be presented
- recipients must not have been involved in any disciplinary action prior to or at the time of nomination or being awarded
- recipients must be nominated by another employee and selected by the award committee
- recipients cannot serve on the selection committee

Selection Criteria

- nominee must meet the aforementioned eligibility requirements
- all nominees will be given full consideration
- nominee must have been a participant or leader in an outstanding achievement, interaction, project, process, or act where they are clearly identified as a role-model
- performance must be significant in terms of its impact on the Museum's visitor, reputation, staff, volunteers, or mission
- nominee must not have been involved in any disciplinary action prior to or at the time of nomination
- facts stated in nomination must be verifiable
- Examples of outstanding performance may include, but are not limited to:
  - Specific examples of extraordinary visitor satisfaction
  - Groundbreaking scientific accomplishments
  - Improvement in a Museum process/program that has far reaching impact
  - Specific examples of colleagues supporting one another
  - First time/one time goals or challenges that have been met and set a precedent

Eligibility to Make a Nomination

- any current staff member (must be available to speak with the selection committee about the nomination if requested)
- nomination must be made for outstanding performance or achievement during the current year's eligibility time period

How and When to Make a Nomination

- make a nomination anytime you believe a co-worker, supervisor or supervisee deserves special recognition for a job well-done
- during the first year of this program, the nomination process will begin December 1, 2000 and continue through August 31, 2001. Subsequent years, the nomination period will be September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002, and so on…
- nomination forms will be distributed throughout the Museum and should be sent to the Human Resources Department upon completion
- nomination forms will be available from department managers, the Human Resources Department, and will be available once per month in the Natural News.
- there are no limits on the number of times someone can be nominated

Selection Committee

An *Award of Excellence* selection committee will be established. The Human Resources Department will ask area Vice Presidents for nominations from their area to serve on the committee. The number of people sitting on the committee will reflect the maximum number of awards that could be given (13) along with representation from the Human Resources Department. The selection committee will meet once per month to discuss all nominations and potential award recipients. All nominations will receive an acknowledgement from the selection committee. Anyone who nominates another staff will be contacted to verify the facts of the nomination. If for any reason, the selection committee or human resources department deems that a nomination does not meet the nomination eligibility requirements, the person who made the nomination will be contacted. The awards will be presented in November, during the Annual Recognition Ceremony.

Maximum Number of Awards Being Granted*

Up to 13 awards may be granted in any given year; based on the number and merit of the nominations which will be determined by the selection committee.

Academic Affairs	3 awards
Information Services	1 award
Institutional Advancement	1 award
Museum Affairs	3 awards
Public Services	3 awards
Finance and Administration	2 awards

(also includes President's Office, Office of General Counsel, External Affairs, and Human Resources)

*based on number of people per Museum organizational Area

Any questions about the *Award of Excellence*, the selection criteria, process, nominations, recipients or committee should be directed to the Human Resources Department at ext. 7271.

2000
Award of Excellence
Nomination

The Field Museum

Staff Member Being Nominated:

Name _____

Department _____

Reason for Nomination (use reverse side if necessary) :

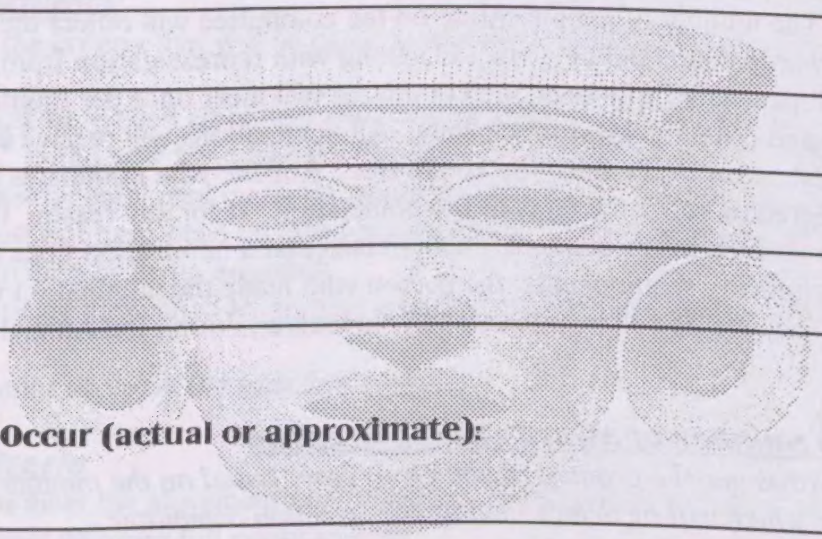
_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



When Did This Occur (actual or approximate):

_____

_____

Submitted By:

Name _____

Department _____

Telephone Extension _____

Signature _____ **Today's Date** _____

Return this form to the Human Resources Department anytime before September 1, 2001. If you have any questions, please call ext. 7271.